



Term 1, 2026

JOURNAL

The Gospel of John



Cornerstone Church
City | Fields | Campus



Deepening
our life
in Christ,
together



WELCOME

Volume 1, Issue 1

We're excited to bring you the first edition of our quarterly journal. We pray that it will help you go deeper into God's Word as we work our way through John's gospel this term.

A few years ago we made the move to shift our Growth Groups programme to come into line with our preaching programme. The feedback from the congregation showed us that going back to the passage twice per week as a church really allowed the Word to permeate our hearts deeply. Now we'd like to take it one step further, bringing our weekly passage into our daily Bible reading, too. Inside you'll find a few questions to help you to engage with God's Word each day, as well as space to jot down prayer points and notes from the Sunday sermon.

Will you join us this year as we seek to deepen our life in Christ, together?

How to use this book

1. Personal devotions

Use this book to help you engage as you read or listen to your Bible each day. You will find a guide that will help you work through scriptures related to our sermon series. Scribble down your thoughts and questions, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

There's also space for you to note down what you're praying about.

2. Growth Groups

Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week. The Bible study questions are printed inside, and we have left space to write down comments, questions and prayer points that surface. We would love for you to be praying for those in your Growth Group throughout the week.

3. Church

Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it to church each week. You can scribble down sermon notes in the space provided – this guide will replace Sunday handouts.

16-22 February

DAILY BIBLE READING

John 18:1-27



Read John 18:1-14

- Picture the events as they unfold. What 'vibe' is established by the when and how of these events?
- Who is strong and weak in this passage?
- Jesus' words translated 'I am he' in vs 6 & 8 are more literally 'I am' (like in the seven 'I am...' statements of John's gospel). What is the significance of the people's response in vs 6?



Read John 11:46-52

- John 18:14 recalls Caiaphas' words from John 11. What is prophetic about his words in 11:50?
- 11:50 says '... it is better...', what is it that makes the dark events of John 18 (and following) 'better' than any alternative for you?



Read John 18:15-27

In John 13:37 Peter says 'Lord, why can't I follow you now? I would die for you...'

- Compare and contrast Peter and Jesus as they are both 'on trial'. How is Peter going at 'following' Jesus?
- How is the alone-ness of Jesus emphasised in this section?
- How might this passage shape your view of your own sin and your best intentions?

 **Read John 21:14-19**

- What is the significance of Jesus' three-times-repeated question?
- How does Jesus' treatment of Peter comfort or reassure you in the light of John 18:15-27?

 **Read Psalm 75**

- In Psalm 75, what is the 'cup' and who drinks it?
- In John 18:11 Jesus says he will drink of the 'cup' given him by the Father. What is this 'cup'?
- What does Jesus' draining of that cup achieve? Why is this news worth sharing?

Things I'm praying for:



16-22 February

GROWTH GROUP

John 18:1-27

Pray

→ *Ask God to help you see with clarity the enormity of Jesus' faithful love.*

Recap: *Ch 18 picks up the narrative flow again, after several chapters of 'the upper room discourse' Jesus' teaching and prayers for his disciples during the passover celebrations.*

1. Skimming through Ch 13-17:
 - a. What does Jesus spend time on in his last extended teaching of his disciples?
 - b. What does he pray in 17:1-5?



Read John 18:1-27

Focus on 18:1-14

2. Looking at vs 1-14, what things feel 'over the top' or 'out of place'?
3. In vs 11 Jesus refers to a 'cup' he must drink. Who gives the cup and what does it contain?
 - a. Read Isaiah 51:17-20. What does it look like in Isaiah 51 for people to taste God's wrath?
 - b. Read Isaiah 53:4-12. What does Jesus' drinking of 'the cup' achieve?
4. Share with your neighbour/in pairs: Consider the way Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath for your personal sin. How does this make you feel about:
 - a. your sin
 - b. your salvation?

→ *Pray in response in pairs, or as a larger group*

Focus on 18:15-27

5. From vs 1-27, what aspects of the way events play out has Jesus already predicted?
6. Compare and contrast the situations and responses of Peter and Jesus in vs 15-27. How are they similar and different?

7. In John 13:37 Peter says “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” How does Peter’s failures challenge our attitude regarding what we can do for God?

 **Read John 6:35-40.**

8. What is the will of the Father?
9. How does Chapter 18 give you confidence in the truth of Jesus’ words in John 6?

Prayer

- Give thanks for Jesus doing what we cannot, and drinking the cup of God’s wrath on our behalf.
- Repent of our tendency to down play our sin and need for a saviour, and/or our tendency towards self-sufficiency or self-righteousness.
- Ask God to help us to rest in his work done, overflowing with thanksgiving, secure in our identity as his children.

Prayer for my group

- *We’ve left space here for you to note down prayer points from your group members: we’d love you to keep bringing them to our Father in prayer through the week.*



Sunday 22 February

SERMON NOTES

John 18:1-27

This week

- Monday: Life course starts
- Tuesday/Wednesday: Co-workers starts

23 February–1 March

DAILY BIBLE READING

John 18:28-40



Read John 18:28-40

→ Divide the action in this passage into scenes.

→ What does Jesus' trial teach us about:

- Who He is and what He has come to do?

- A right response to Him?

→ In what ways are the Jews themselves 'tried and found guilty' in this passage?

→ How, today, could we be found similarly guilty?

Things I'm praying for:



GROWTH GROUP

John 18:28-40

Pray

Recap: *Jesus has been arrested and handed over to be questioned by Annas, Caiaphas and the High Priest. Peter denies Jesus three times. Now, the Pharisees and Chief Priests take Jesus to Pilate's palace for further questioning.*

Read John 18:28-40

1. Why do you think the Chief Priests brought Jesus to Pilate?
2. What is the irony of the Pharisees and Chief Priests not wanting to enter the palace so they can participate in Passover.
3. Pilate tells the Pharisees to 'Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law' — why aren't the Pharisees happy to take him and judge him by their own law?
4. Note/circle the words 'king', 'kingdom', and 'palace'. What point is John making about Jesus' Kingdom?
5. How is Jesus' Kingdom different from the kingdoms and rulers of the world, and what hope does it give us, knowing that earthly kingdoms often fall or face revolution?
6. Look at the answer Jesus gives half way through vs. 37, what is the purpose of His coming to earth?

Split into small groups or pairs to look at one of the following verses then share with the wider group:

- Luke 19:10
- John 10:10
- Psalm 40:6-8 & Hebrews 10:5-7
- 1 Timothy 2:5
- 1 John 3:8
- John 1:29
- Isaiah 53:5-6

7. How does Pilate's question contrast with Jesus' claim to be the truth (John 14:6)? What does this tell us about the kind of response Jesus is looking for?
8. Pilate finds no guilt in Jesus and even calls him "King," yet he does not release him. Instead, the crowd demands the release of Barabbas—a man guilty of murder and rebellion against Roman rule, with clear evidence against him. Why do you think the crowd chooses Barabbas over Jesus?
9. Are there times we, like Pilate, avoid making the hard but right choice? What holds us back?
10. What would it look like this week for you to live more fully for Jesus' Kingdom than the earthly focus that is so often the center of our lives?

Prayer

- Thank God for the Kingdom that he has for his followers, that it is not corrupt but a place where every tear will be wiped (Revelation 21:4).
- Pray that we would hold fast to the promise of Jesus as king!
- Pray that we would share this message of hope with those in our lives who don't yet know Jesus as king over their lives.

Prayer for my group

- *We've left space here for you to note down prayer points from your group members: we'd love you to keep bringing them to our Father in prayer through the week.*



Sunday 1 March

SERMON NOTES

John 18:28-40

This week

- Monday: Life course
- Tuesday/Wednesday: Co-workers

2-8 March

DAILY BIBLE READING

John 19:1-16a



Read John 19:1-16a

Throughout this passage the attempts made by Pilate to spare Jesus from death, and the steps taken by the Jews to counter his efforts. The full charge brought against Jesus is given in Luke 23:2. (Note the Jews' use of both religious and political threats to overcome Pilate's resistance; see 19: 7, 12.)

- What features of the character of Pilate and of the Jews are revealed here?

- Could we be guilty of similar injustice?

- "The King of the Jews". Note how this title forms the central interest from 18:33 to 19:22.

- What is the real nature of Jesus' kingship?

→ How does it differ from the world?

→ How is Jesus' royal dignity shown here?

→ How does the use of the title reveal the sin of the people, and the glory of Jesus' sacrifice?

Things I'm praying for:



2-8 March

GROWTH GROUP

John 19:1-16a

Pray

Recap: *Jesus has been questioned by the Jewish leaders, and by Pilate. Pilate has found “no basis for a charge against him.”*

Read John 19:1-16a

1. Given the previous section (Pilate claiming Jesus is innocent), it seems surprising that 19:1 opens with Pilate having Jesus flogged. What does it show about the type of legal proceedings against Jesus?
2. Note/circle all the occurrences of ‘king’ in this passage (you might like to look over the previous section too). What point is John making about who Jesus is?
3. But what kind of king is Jesus? How does he exercise his authority?
4. Who do the Roman soldiers think Jesus is? What do their actions ironically show?
5. What does Pilate conclude about Jesus? (19:4, 6)
6. What is the charge that Jesus is crucified for?
7. How much power does Pilate have in this passage? Where does ultimate authority lie, according to Jesus?
8. Who appears to have power in your situation? Where might it be helpful to remember God is in control, even when things aren’t going as you’d like?

9. Pilate continues to call Jesus 'king' (even in 19:19), but even still, hands him over to death. When are you tempted to go against what you know is right, even while acknowledging Jesus as king?
10. Does the injustice of Jesus' condemnation still impact you? What ways does it shape how you see God?

Prayer

- Thank God for Jesus' willingness to go to his death for you, despite the injustice of the situation.
- Thank God that he is the one in control over all things.
- Pray that we might see Jesus as he truly is; the glorious king!
- Pray for those in your life who don't see Jesus as the true king.

Prayer for my group:



Sunday 8 March

SERMON NOTES

John 19:1-16a

This week

- Monday: Big Ideas Night; Life course
- Tuesday/Wednesday: Co-workers

9-15 March

DAILY BIBLE READING

John 19:16b-37



Read John 19:16b-37

This passage refers to several Old Testament passages. What is the context of each of the following verses? (First, read the two Psalms and summarise each in a sentence.)

→ Psalm 22:18

→ Psalm 69:21

→ Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12

→ Zechariah 12:10 (NB 13:1)

→ Divide the passage into parts and give a title to each part.

→ What main point is John making, and how does each part of the passage tie in with it?

→ What are the implications of this passage for the Christian?

Things I'm praying for:



9-15 March

GROWTH GROUP

John 19:16b-37

Pray

Recap: Pilate handed over Jesus, a man whom he found innocent, to be crucified.

Read John 19:16b-37

1. What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
2. In verse 19, we see Pilate places a sign above Jesus' cross saying, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." But the Jewish chief priests protest. Why do the Jewish chief priests protest? And what does this show us about how we should respond to Jesus?
3. Who looks to be in control, and who wants to be in control of Jesus' crucifixion?
4. How does the description of Jesus' death show us that his death was all part of God's plan?
5. Jesus says: "It is finished" in verse 30. What is finished?
6. What does Jesus do for his mother in his last moments?
7. How does knowing God is in control help us to love others during suffering?
8. John says that Jesus' bones not being broken fulfills scripture, in particular the scriptural requirement that the bones of the passover lamb are not to be broken (c.f. Ex 12:46, Num 9:12). What was the role of the passover lamb during the first passover? How does understanding Jesus as the passover lamb help to explain the purpose of his death?

9. John gives us the reason for why he has recorded this testimony of Jesus' death here in verse 35, "so that you also may believe". What does John want us to believe?
10. When do we struggle to believe that Jesus' death saves us? What helps you to know that it's only by Jesus' death that we can be saved?

Prayer

- That we as individuals and as a church would continue to boast only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (c.f. Gal 6:14).
- That we continue loving others and trust God's plan for our lives, even amidst suffering.
- That we would know the joy of having our sins forgiven, our punishment paid and relationship with God now.
- That we would tell others about Jesus' death.

Prayer for my group:



Sunday 15 March

SERMON NOTES

John 19:16b-37

This week

- Monday: Life course
- Tuesday/Wednesday: Co-workers
- Friday-Sunday: Student Getaway

→ What prompted Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus to step forward publicly as disciples? (Compare John 19:38 with 12:42-43; 3:1-2)

→ Why was Mary so concerned that the body had gone from the tomb? What did Jesus convey to her when he said 'Mary'? Why did he say 'do not hold me'? Is it possible for us to miss the best in the Lord while holding onto the good?

Things I'm praying for:



GROWTH GROUP

John 19:38-20:18

Pray

Read John 19:38-42

1. What do each of these characters do after Jesus' death?
 - a. Joseph of Aramethea
 - b. Nicodemus
 - c. The twelve disciples (at this stage)
2. Imagine John's gospel ended at chapter 19. What emotions are strongest at this stage of John's gospel?

Read 20:1-10

3. What emotions do Mary, Peter, and John feel as they discover the empty tomb? Generally, what do all the characters so far expect would happen to Jesus?
4. Generally, what do all the characters so far expect would happen to Jesus?
5. What clues are given for Jesus' resurrection?
6. Many of the details of Jesus' resurrection are shared by Lazarus' resurrection. John probably intentionally crafted his gospel this way to teach us something. Read John 11:38-44. What differences are there in the details and what does this imply about Jesus' resurrection?

Reread 20:11-18

7. What are the different stages of Mary's emotions across our passage? What information does she have at each stage?
8. Jesus tells Mary not to 'hold on' to him until he has ascended to the Father. What does she need to know about Jesus? Why does she need to be clear on this?

9. From John's gospel only, what claims are proven true about Jesus by his resurrection?
10. Of those truths, what would be helpful to understand better or hold onto more closely in your life?

Prayer

- Thank God that Jesus really died in our place.
- Thank God that Jesus was raised from the dead.
- Thank God that Jesus is all he said he is because he was raised.
- Thank God we can call Jesus brother and God Father.
- Ask God for assurance and comfort from our trust in Jesus' resurrection.

Prayer for my group:



Sunday 22 March

SERMON NOTES

John 19:38-20:18

This week

- Monday: Life course (final night)
- Tuesday/Wednesday: Co-workers (last night for term)

23-29 March

GROWTH GROUP

John 20:19-31

Pray

→ *Ask God to help you hear His word with humility, to trust the apostles' witness, and to grow in confidence that Jesus is risen and reigning.*

Recap the first half of the chapter.

Read John 20:19-31

1. What does Jesus show the disciples?
2. Why does He greet them with “peace be with you” (twice!)?
3. What mission does Jesus give the disciples, and how is it connected to the Spirit?
4. In what ways is Thomas a model believer? In what ways is he not?
5. How does Jesus' statement in verse 29 change the pattern we have seen earlier in the chapter, where seeing leads to believing?
6. How would this scene encourage someone who feels like a “second-class” Christian because they haven't had visions or dreams of Jesus?
7. How does it encourage the person who seeks evidence before believing; does 'having faith' mean believing without evidence?

8. How has John's achieved his goal in v31?
9. Most of us experience periods of doubt and struggle in faith during our Christian walk. How might this passage help us confront our doubts?
10. What does John expect you to do with your faith?

Prayer

- Thank God that Jesus has risen and accomplished His plan of rescue.
- Ask for trust in the apostles' witness, even when we haven't seen Jesus ourselves.
- Pray for boldness to live as His people, sharing His message of forgiveness and peace.

Prayer for my group:



Sunday 29 March

SERMON NOTES

John 20:19-31

This week

→ Friday: Good Friday

30 March–5 April

DAILY BIBLE READING

John 21



Read John 21

The account of the miraculous catch of fish seems to have two functions.

→ How is it related to the previous chapter?

→ How is it related to Jesus' conversation with Peter?

→ What are Jesus' priorities for His people? How do chapters 13–17 help us to understand them more fully?

- What part is to be played by Peter?
- What part is to be played by John?
- What part is to be played by us?

Things I'm praying for:



GROWTH GROUP

John 21

Pray

Recap: Read John 20:19–23, 30–31

Read John 21:1–14

1. What other stories/ideas in the Bible does vv1–14 remind you of?
2. If we rule out the idea of being ‘fishers of men’, what other themes/ideas and links to the rest of John can you see in vv1–14?
3. In John’s gospel, signs are always paired with explanations of the sign. How does Peter’s restoration relate to the miracle of the fish?

Read John 21:15–19

4. Peter’s three betrayals of Jesus (John 18) are matched by three commands to feed Jesus’ sheep. Let’s compare what Jesus says to Peter before and after the betrayals:

→ Read John 13:31–38, John 21:17–19

- a. What language/phrases get used in both?
 - b. What language has changed between the two passages?
 - c. Compare 13:36 to 21:19
5. How does John 13:34b “As I have loved you, so you must love one another” explain the change between the two encounters?
 6. Why is this sometimes a scary command? How does Peter’s reinstatement give encouragement to us as we seek to love others from Jesus’ example?
 7. Jesus’ particular command that is emphasised in this passage is to feed his sheep. How are we able to do this?
 8. I can’t feed 5000 people with two fish and five loaves. Is Jesus calling me to start a foodbank instead? Why not?

 **Read John 21:20-25**

9. How is this final exchange a warning for us as we seek to follow Jesus?
10. How is this exchange an encouragement?

Prayer

- Thank Jesus for being the good shepherd to us by laying down his life for us.
- Thank Jesus for the grace he offers, and that we can serve faithfully even in our brokenness.
- Confess where we've tried to lead out of our own strength, rather than looking to Jesus' example.
- Ask that we would love Jesus deeply, and from that love, lead and feed His sheep faithfully.

Prayer for my group:



Sunday 5 April

SERMON NOTES

John 21

This week

→ School holidays start

Sunday 12 April

SERMON NOTES

Psalm 23

Sunday 19 April

SERMON NOTES

Psalm 23

This week

- Growth Groups start back up
- Co-workers term 2 starts



*“Come to me, all you who are weary
and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn
from me, for I am gentle and humble
in heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. For my yoke is easy and my
burden is light.”*

MATTHEW 11:28-30

